

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

It would only be fair if all its stations were also required to show a 2 hour anti-Bush documentary. (Not likely to happen.)

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

I think the FCC has an obligation to step in and take action in this instance. This is a completely unfair use of air time, and by making it anti-kerry rather than pro-Bush, they have skirted all the rules that have been in place for decades. Waiting until after the election will be too late. You must forbid their actions, and incur fines.

Thank you.
Meredith K. Fane